

March 2, 2022

Testimony In OPPOSITION to SB 184. An Act Extending Through November 8, 2022 Several Changes Regarding Election Administration as a Result of COVID-19 and Concerning Eligibility to Vote by Absentee Ballot;

And

In OPPOSITION to HB 5262. An Act Revising Certain Absentee Voting Eligibility Statutes.

Dear Chairmen and Members of the Government and Elections Committee,

I strongly oppose SB184 and HB5262.

Our Connecticut Constitution provides detailed election law, inclusive of absentee voting:

CONNECTICUT CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE SIXTH. OF THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS, SECTIONS 7 and 8. , states:

SEC. 7. The general assembly may provide by law for voting in the choice of any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted on at an election by qualified voters of the state who are unable to appear at the polling place on the day of election because of absence from the city or town of which they are inhabitants or because of sickness, or physical disability or because the tenets of their religion forbid secular activity.

SEC. 8. The general assembly may provide by law for the admission as electors in absentia of members of the armed forces, the United States merchant marine, members of religious or welfare groups or agencies attached to and serving with the armed forces and civilian employees of the United States, and the spouses and dependents of such persons.

(Sec. 8 amended in 1992. See Art. XXVII of Amendments to the Constitution of the State of Connecticut.)

Our absentee voting law should not be changed. Clearly defined "sickness" is a qualification of absence for voting choice of an elector existing in the Connecticut Constitution.

VOTE NO!

Sincerely,

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